

Serial No.: 09/986,670

Attorney Docket No.: K2475.0001/P001

Remarks

The claims (100 and 102-115) stand rejected under 35 USC §101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter for lacking a connection to the technological arts. In response to that rejection, claims 100, 113 have been amended to recite that their methods are carried out in a computer system. The preamble of Claim 115 also was amended to indicate that the system for carrying out the invention is a computer system.

Claim 115 was further rejected under §101 for reciting elements that could be interpreted to include a human being. The amendment to the preamble of claim 115 now addresses this rejection by reciting that the present system is a computer system. Moreover, the elements in the body of the claim that were rejected in the Office Action (i.e. "first entity", "second entity" and "third entity") have been replaced by means plus function elements ("acquiring means", "allocating means", and "purchasing means") which of course are altogether carried out within a computer system. As such, claim 115 as amended is clearly statutory.

Support for the above-noted amendments can be found throughout in the patent specification including on pages 2, 20-21 and in Figures 9-10.

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Entry and consideration of this response is respectfully requested. Each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to pass this application to issue.

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Respectfully submitted,

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